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I, Robert J. Ward, hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper and fees referred to as being attached or enclosed or actually enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above, with sufficient postage, and is addressed as follows:

Robert J. Ward
 Signature of person mailing paper
 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231.

In re Application of: Ward, et al.

Serial No.: 10/086,584

Filing Date: February 28, 2002

Group Art Unit: 3727

Examiner: Mai, Tri M.

For: **Apparatus and Method for
Protecting and Wiping a Surface**

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of this art is enclosed

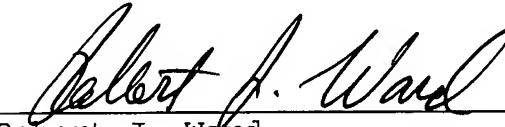
for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that this art is material to patentability of the present application or that a search has been made.

The filing of this First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner, and shall not be construed as a representation that Applicants or Applicants' attorneys have personal knowledge of the contents of the listed art or any events surrounding the listed art.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449, as indicated. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner then return to the undersigned a copy of the initialed and completed Form PTO-1449 that indicates the enclosed references have been considered in their entirety.

No fees are believed to be required in connection with the filing of this First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3). Applicants note that the Office Action mailed February 26, 2003 was not a "first Office Action on the merits" since it dealt with election/restriction requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Ward
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April 11, 2003